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WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
ANNUAL REPORT 1953.



To the Chairman and Members of the
Withnell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Withnell for the Year 1953.

The report follows the same lines as in previous years. In regard to Vital Statistics it should perhaps be mentioned that changes came into force in 1953, which have the effect that deaths in certain types of hospitals and institutions are not now transferable to the place of usual residence of the deceased. This change has not, however, affected the statistics adversely as there was one death fewer than in the previous year. The crude death rate from all causes per 1,000 population is 12.1 as compared with 11.4 for the County as a whole. As in the previous year only one infant died before reaching one year of age.

Again it is pleasing to report that there were no deaths attributable to child-birth or tuberculosis.

In regard to live births there were 12 fewer than in the previous year, giving a birth rate of 10.9 per 1,000 as compared with 15.5 for England and Wales as a whole.

During the year the number of cases of infectious diseases notified was .21 as against 30 in the year 1952. No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis were notified. The District was fortunate in not being affected by the large outbreak of food poisoning in the North West.

The efficiency of the plant for the treatment of the water supply continues to give cause for concern. You are aware, however, that a Scheme has been prepared to deal with this vitally important matter and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Other matters regarding the Sanitary Circumstances are dealt with in the Report and require no special comment by me.

I wish to express again my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members for the kind consideration given to Dr. Doherty and myself at all times.

My thanks are also due to the Officers of the Council for their willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant

J. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

SECTION A.

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1953 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,821.

The rateable value was £13,457 and a penny rate produced £51.

The chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, and a Saw Mill and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>1. LIVE BIRTHS.</u>			
Legitimate	16	16	32
Illegitimate.	NIL	NIL	NIL
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population			Crude 11.3
<u>Adjusted 10.9</u>			

<u>2. STILL BIRTHS.</u>			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate.	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 <u>TOTAL</u> Births NIL.			


<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>1. ALL CAUSES</u>			
	16	18	34
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			Crude 12.1
<u>Adjusted 11.6</u>			

<u>2. RESPIRATORY T.B.</u>			
	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 estimated population NIL.			

<u>3. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.</u>			
	2	2	4
Rate per 1,000 estimated population			1.42

<u>4. MATERNAL MORTALITY.</u>			
Pregnancy, childbirth			
abortion	NIL		
Rate per 1,000 <u>TOTAL</u> Births NIL.			

<u>5. INFANTILE MORTALITY.</u>			
<u>A. Under one year</u>			
Legitimate	NIL	1	1
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 <u>LIVE</u> Births			31.
<u>B. Under Four Weeks</u>			
Legitimate.	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 <u>LIVE</u> Births			NIL.



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COMPARABILITY FACTORS

BIRTHS .96
DEATHS .96

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS
(CRUDE RATES)

Year	Live births		Deaths (all - causes)		Still-births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Total Mortality (under 1 year)		Mortality Neo-natal (under 4 weeks)	
	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1953.	32	11.3	34	12.1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	31	NIL	NIL
1952.	44	15.6	35	12.4	1	22	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1951.	40	14.1	53	18.7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1949.	47	16.3	49	17.0	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1948.	43	16.9	27	9.5	4	76	NIL	NIL	1	20	NIL	NIL
1950	51	17.8	41	14.3	1	19	NIL	NIL	3	59	2	39
England & Wales 1953.		15.5		11.4		22.4		-		26.8		

ADJUSTED Live birth rate (comparability factor 0.96) = 10.9 per 1,000

ADJUSTED death rate (comparability factor 0.96) = 11.6 per 1,000

ANALYSIS OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
10. Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	-	1	1
12. " " Breast.	-	1	1
14 Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	2	-	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	1	4	5
18. Coronary Disease, Angina.	1	1	2
19. Hypertension. with heart Disease.	-	1	1
20. Other heart Disease.	4	4	8
21. Other Circulatory Disease.	2	1	3
22. Influenza.	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia.	-	1	1
24. Bronchitis.	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.	1	-	1
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis.	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
34. All other Accidents.	.	1	1
35. Suicide		1	1
ALL CAUSES	16	18	34

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health: - J.Walker, M.B., C.H.B., L.D.S., D.P.H.,
D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments :-

M.O.H. Chorley Borough.

M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C.

M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C.

M.O.H. Preston R.D.C.

Divisional Medical Officer of Health
Division No.4.

Sanitary Inspector: - Rowland Mellor Hudson, M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.B.E.
a part time officer holding the appointment
of Surveyor.

Remuneration £217/10/-d per annum.

No other Public Health Officer held office during 1953.

LABORATORY SERVICES: -

The Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary was available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious disease and for pathological specimens for ordinary diseases.

Similar use of this laboratory was made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice cream etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Provided by Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service.
(Chorley Depot) - Telephone Chorley 2744.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is one "District Nurse" practising in the area.
She is Nurse Johnson, 62, Cadley Causeway, Preston. Preston 86368.

TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The "Minor Ailment" Clinic is held at 20, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley each Monday at 10.30 a.m.
Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status.
Attendance is by appointment via school Medical Staff.

CHEST CLINIC.

The Chest Clinic is at 34, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.
The Chest Physician attends each Tuesday at 10 a.m. This Clinic is a consultant clinic for all chest conditions.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

Held at Chorley and District Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and Bolton Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

For non-infectious cases - Chorley and District Hospital, Preston Royal Infirmary, Blackburn Royal Infirmary and Sharoe Green.

For infectious cases - Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

Smallpox - Smallpox Hospital at Ainsworth, Nr. Bury.

Tuberculosis. - Sanatorium (50 beds at Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.
All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

These services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domiciliary Facilities.

There is one salaried Midwife, Miss Garnet, Leve. Edge, Chain Horse Lane, Whitestake, Preston. Telephone Preston 85448., employed by the Lancashire County Council practising in the area.

Ante-Natal Clinics.& Post Natal Clinics.

These clinics are held on Thursdays (at 9.30 a.m.) and Fridays (at 10 a.m. At 2-4, St. Thomas's Square, Chorley. They are attended by a consultant obstetrician. No appointment is necessary for the first visit.

Maternity Beds.

The available accomodation at Chorley is as follows:-

Chorley & District Hospital	...	120 beds
Haves Lane P.A. Institution	...	12 beds

Child Welfare Centres.

A child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly (Tuesdays 2-4 p.m.) at the Withnell Conservative Club, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer (Dr. J. Doherty) of the Lancashire County Council as well as the County Health Visitor. Ministry of Food Welfare Foods and other proprietary baby foods may be obtained at this Clinic.

Health Visitor.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Nurse P. Richmond who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services. She may be consulted through the Divisional Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 7265)

Home Helps.

A Home Help Service in cases of sickness, Maternity or old age is available in the area. Applications for Home Helps should be made to the Divisional Health Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood. (Telephone Preston 7265).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:-

Types of tuberculosis.	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Respiratory	16	16	18	17	14
Non Respiratory	5	4	7	7	6

There were 4 primary notifications (Respiratory), in 1953 and NO Deaths.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1953.

Age Period. years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
20.				1				
35.	1							
55.	1							
65.	1							
TOTAL	3		(5)	1				

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Production.

Under the Milk and dairies Regulations 1949 inspection and supervision of milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Local Authority is responsible for the cleanliness and safety of Milk Retailed in the district. 3 samples were taken, one was unsatisfactory and referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Meat and Other Foods.

All meat during the year came from the Central Depot in Blackburn.

Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables were inspected and in 20 cases were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation. No statutory action was necessary.

Ice Cream.

3 samples of Ice Cream were taken for analysis under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations and were satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

Six bakehouses exist, and were in good condition during the year.

Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water).

915 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2,781 persons are supplied with this water.

9 Bacteriological examinations of water were made in the year. All were satisfactory. Proposed scheme for the installation of Micro-strainer and chlorinator submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

A further 30 dwelling houses - estimated population 90 - obtain their water from private supplies. There is no report of any cases of infection having arisen due to unsatisfactory water supply during 1953.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two Sewerage Disposal Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers and one Works with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer.

Closet Accomodation at end of 1953.

Privy Middens	None
Pail Closets	185
Dry Ashpits.	58
Moveable Ashbins	877
Waste Water Closets.	37
Fresh Water Closets.	821
Houses on Water carriage system	858

During the year 5 Closets and 19 Trough Closets at schools were converted to Fresh Water Closets. The onus for the satisfactory maintainance of drains and closets is on the owners and such work is not undertaken by the Local Authority.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspections.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 26 and 20 found to be defective. 16 of these were abated and 20 informal notices were served. 4 statutory Notices were served, and there were no legal proceedings.

